

Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1951



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BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Councillors

Maescwmmmer Ward	...	..	Councillor	Mrs. S. J. Graham
			"	G. Phillips
			"	R. Williams
			"	G. J. Bright
Bedwas Ward	...	...	"	F. C. Dudden
			"	G. Lewis
			"	T. T. Williams
			"	H. Gibbon
Trethomas Ward	...	...	"	H. Ludlow
			"	Mrs. C. Davies
			"	L. Vaughan (<i>Chairman</i>)
			"	S. G. Lewis
Machen Ward	...	...	"	E. V. Matthews
			"	G. Beeston
			"	A. Walley
			"	T. J. Jones

OFFICERS.

CLERK	...	...	...	W. Ewart Morgan
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	...	...	...	K. P. Giles, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Surveyor and Engineer	...	...	...	R. Ruttlely
SANITARY INSPECTOR	...	...	...	H. R. Sulway, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR	...	...	...	N. G. Rhodes, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	...	...	...	R. Humphreys, A.C.I.S.
RATING OFFICER	...	...	...	F. Phipps.
Treasurers	...	...	...	Co-operative Wholesale Socy., Ltd. (Bankers).

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BEDWAS.

July, 1952.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
BEDWAS & MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following is a summarised REPORT for the year 1951.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	approx	6,200
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...		9,183
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...		8,712
Estimated Population (R.G.) 1951	...	...	...	...	...		8,662
Number of Inhabited Houses (including farms) 1950	...	...	...	...	...		2,354
Number of Inhabited Houses (including farms) 1951	...	...	...	...	...		2,392
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£	30,111
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£	107

Variation in Population Figures.

Year	Registrar General's Estimated Population						
1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,434
1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,448
1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,581
1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,711
1951 (Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,712
1951 Registrar General's Figure for June	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,662

The above figures may lead one to assume that the population has reached a peak, but a comparison of the births and deaths figures for this year show an increase in the number of births over deaths of 24, thus one can logically argue that there is still a slight tendency for the population to increase.

The Housing Programme should also tend to foster the increase in population and it will be very interesting to compare the present figures with figures in future Annual Reports.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE.

Live Births.				Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	...	...	139	65	74
Illegitimate	...	...	...	4	1	3
				143	66	77

Giving a birth-rate of 16.5 per thousand of the resident population

Rate for the County of Monmouth	...	...	...	...	16.5
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	15.5

Still Births.				Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	0	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
				1	0	1

This gives a rate of 0.11 per thousand of the population.

Rate for the County of Monmouth	...	...	...	...	0.49
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	0.36

DEATH RATE.

				Total	Males	Females
Deaths from all Causes	...	...	...	119	62	57

This gives an annual death rate of 13.74 per thousand of the resident population

Rate for the County of Monmouth	...	...	...	...	13.35
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	12.45

MATERNAL DEATH RATE.

Deaths from puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Deaths from other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	NIL

INFANT MORTALITY

Ages at death of Children under One Year.

Under 1 Week	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
1 to 2 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
2 to 3 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
3 to 4 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Total under 1 month	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
1 to 3 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
3 to 6 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
6 to 9 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
9 to 12 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Total under 1 Year	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 20.97 per thousand live births

Rate for the County of Monmouth	...	...	...	...	43.1
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	29.6

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females
Measles	0	1
Whooping Cough	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	0
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0
Cancer of Mouth, Oesoph. and Uterus	4	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	1
Cancer of Breast	0	1
Cancer of Other Sites	5	1
Diabetes	0	0
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	8	8
Heart Diseases	15	25
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	0	2
Influenza	2	3

Bronchitis	6	3
Pneumonia	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	0	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0	0
Nephritis	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0
Congenital Malformation, birth injuries ...	1	0
Pregnancy, etc.	0	0
Suicide	0	0
Motor Vehicle accidents	0	0
Other violent causes	0	1
All other causes	8	6
TOTAL	62	57

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFICATIONS.

A comparison of the rates per thousand of the population of Notifications received for the year is as follows :-

	England & Wales	Bedwas & Machen
Scarlet Fever	1.11	1.95
Whooping Cough	3.87	2.18
Measles	14.07	30.99
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.03	0.00
Pneumonia	0.99	0.22
Diphtheria	0.02	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.00
Meningoccal Infection	0.03	0.11
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.11

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
RECEIVED DURING 1951.**

DISEASE.				Total Cases Notified	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	17	NIL	NIL
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	19	NIL	NIL
Measles	...	...	...	270	NIL	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	NIL	NIL	NIL
Diphtheria	...	...	...	NIL	NIL	NIL
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	1	3
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	1	1	NIL
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	1	NIL	NIL
TOTAL				310	2	4

**WARD DISTRIBUTION OF INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASES.**

Disease		Maesy- cwmmer Ward	Bedwas Ward	Tre- thomas Ward	Machen Ward	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	1	11	2	3	17
Whooping Cough	...	18	1	0	0	19
Measles...	...	6	105	70	89	170
Pneumonia	...	1	2	2	0	5
Meningococcal infection	...	0	0	1	0	1
Food Poisoning	...	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL		26	120	75	92	313

AGE INCIDENCE FOR THE YEAR 1951.

Age Period	Scarlet Fever	Whoop ing Cough	Measles	Pneu- monia	Mening- occal Infection	Food Poison
0 to 1 ...	0	0	12	0	0	0
1 to 2 ...	0	3	30	0	1	0
2 to 3 ...	0	3	35	0	0	0
3 to 4 ...	2	4	52	0	0	0
4 to 5 ...	5	5	33	0	0	0
5 to 10	8	4	108	2	0	0
10 to 15	1	0	0	0	0	0
15 to 20	1	0	0	0	0	0
20 to 35	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 to 45	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 to 65	0	0	0	0	0	1
65 up ...	0	0	0	3	0	0
TOTAL	17	19	270	5	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases Notified and Mortality During 1951.

Age Period	NEW CASES.				MORTALITY			
	Pulmonary		Non. -Pul.		Pulmonary		Non.-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
35	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
45	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0
TOTAL	8	2	1	1	5	0	0	0

Ward Distribution of cases notified and deaths occurring during 1951.

Ward	CASES NOTIFIED				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non.-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non.-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Maesycwmmmer	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Bedwas	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Trethomas	5	1	0	0	3	0	0	0
Machen ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	8	2	1	1	5	0	0	0

HOUSING.

Number of houses owned by the Local authority and in occupancy at the end of December, 1951 :-

661, which includes 24 houses built during the year.

Ward Distribution is as follows :-

Ward	Arcon type Bungalows	Aluminium Bungalows	Cornish Houses.	Traditional Houses.
Maesycwmmmer	10	0	0	116
Bedwas ...	0	30	48	180
Trethomas	0	73	0	112
Machen ...	0	10	0	82
TOTAL ...	10	113	48	490

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....157
- (b) Number of inspections.....203

- (c) Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human occupation.....107

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF INFORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwellings repaired in consequence of Informal action by the local authority or their officers.....91

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs NIL
- (2) Number of Dwelling houses rendered fit after service of Formal Notices NIL

4. PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :-

- (1) Number of Dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....142
- (2) Number of Dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :-
- (a) By Owners 8
- (b) By Local Authority NIL

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient sdervant,

KENNETH P. GILES,
Medical Officer of Health

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BEDWAS.....MON

July, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the
BEDWAS & MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The following is a summary of notices served during the year :-

1. Public Health Act, 1936. (Dealing with Nuisances and Repairs to Properties).
Informal Notices and letters 201
Abatement Notices 8
2. Section dealing with Cleansing of Premises.
Informal Notices and letters 7
Formal Notices NIL
3. Food and Drugs Act, 1938. (Dealing with Rooms where Foodstuffs are stored or sold).
Informal Notices and letters 4
Formal Notices NIL

WATER SUPPLIES.

The district is supplied by the Rhymney Valley Water Board and the quantity and quality is satisfactory.

Six samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination and results were good.

Houses supplied direct from public mains (including
Farms 2,322
Dwelling Houses from Standpipes 32
Farms with own supplies 37

Every effort will be made during 1952 to reduce the number of houses served by standpipes where the service pipes can be installed inside the premises.

DRAINAGE.

Surface water drainage is to the River Rhymney and as far as this area is concerned, no crude sewage is emptying into it from dwelling houses.

The river is polluted by colliery washings before and after its course through the Bedwas and Machen area, also the washings from the local colliery and by-product plant find entry into the river.

SEWERAGE.

The area is adequately served by the main trunk sewer which follows approximately the course of the river throughout the district.

There are still 16 premises which have dry conservancy and cesspools at points in the area where it is an economic impossibility to connect to the sewerage system.

SWIMMING BATHS.

One privately owned open air swimming pool exists in the area and the buildings are badly affected through subsidence, otherwise the water is in good condition and is subjected to effective chlorination.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

One full time Rodent Operator is employed by the Council and with the very welcome co-operation of Mr. R. Davies (Regional Rodent Officer) and Mr. F. C. Hall (Infestation Officer), a good year of rodent destruction has followed.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year :-

Sewer Treatments.

No. 1.

Whole system inspected.

No. of sewer manholes 843

No. of inspection chambers 368
 20 per cent of manholes baited (Approx.) 170.
 3 inspection chambers baited shewing evidence of rats.
 70 manholes were poison baited.

Result.

Poison takes. 1 clear, 10 good, 4 small.

This treatment was commenced on the 12th March and was completed on the 14th April.

No. 2.

The second treatment occupied the time between the 9th and 30th September.

No. of manholes test baited 765
 No. of manholes baited second time 78
 No. of manholes shewing takes 47

No manholes shewed evidence of complete prebait takes.

No. of manholes poison baited 44

Result.

Poison takes. 1 clear, 13 good, 14 small.

5 bodies of rodents were picked up after this treatment.

Surface Treatments.

No. of business premises treated 4
 No. of private dwellings treated 400
 (The above includes allotments gardens, etc.)
 No. of local authority properties treated 4

The number of agricultural premises found upon inspection to be infested were two and the information was passed on to the Pests Officer and treatments were carried out under his direction by his own squad.

The Rhymney River is a constant source of trouble from rat infestation and constant attention is paid to this source of infestation with the co-operation, at times, with neighbouring authorities.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Four terminal disinfection of premises were carried out after cases of infectious disease.

Visits were paid on receipt of notifications and advice and assistance was given to prevent the spread of infection.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Factories with mechanical power	7
Factories without mechanical power	10
Number of Outworkers in area	NIL
Number of inspections made	22

Only two cases of lack of cleanliness were discovered and remedied by informal notices.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

As Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council is not a Food and Drugs authority, the sampling of foodstuffs is carried out by Monmouthshire County Council by their Weights and Measures inspectors.

All efforts are directed by this authority to ensure that the distribution, and handling of foodstuffs is done in the most hygienic manner.

Apart from the Colliery Canteen and School canteens there are no catering establishments of any size in the area.

MILK SUPPLY.

One Pasteurising plant is licensed by the County Council and frequent samples are taken to ensure that the product is produced satisfactorily.

Number of distributors in the area	10
(excluding producers).	
Number of Dairies (excluding dairy farms)	3

Milk (Special Designations) Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk Regulations 1949 and Milk (Special Designations) Raw Milk Regulation 1949.

Licences issued :-

Dealers licences for sale of Pasteurised	2
Dealers licences for sale of Accredited	2
Supplementary licences for sale of Designated milk by vendors outside the area	2

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All foodstuffs are regularly inspected for the purpose of ascertaining the suitability and condition of the various commodities for human consumption. During the year the following list of foodstuffs were surrendered by the shopkeepers and condemned.

82lbs. Beef : 6 tins ham (73lbs) : 67 tins of various meat products : 12 tins Condensed milk : 13 tins of various fruits : 42lbs cheese : 32 tins of beans : 22 lbs of rancid butter : 34 tins of Soups : 2 stones of cod filletts : 8 cwts of potatoes : 21 tins of fish and fish products.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council employ an Additional Sanitary Inspector as full time meat inspector at the Buttry Hatch Slaughterhouse, Maescywmmer. As this establishment caters for the meat supply to four local authorities, his salary is apportioned to each authority on a proportionate basis.

The following is the text of that officer's report :-

Number of animals slaughtered and inspected :

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs.
3,409	333	15,897	630

Meat and Offals condemned :-

Approximate weight : 29 tons. 15 cwts.

	Cows	Cattle excl. Cows	calves	Sheep	Pigs.
No. of animals slaughtered	1199	2210	333	15897	630
Whole carcasses condemned for tuberculosis...	11	1	1	—	—
Organs or carcasses affected with tuberculosis ...	378	167	1	—	30
Percentage of animals affected with tuberculosis	31.5	7.6	—	—	4.8
Whole carcasses condemned for disease other than tuberculosis ...	2	—	—	8	—
Organs affected with disease other than tuberculosis	786	987	—	1,026	5
Percentage of animals affected with disease other than tuberculosis	65.5	44.7	—	6.5	0.8

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS.

		Cattle	Number	
		Slaughtered	Affected	Percentage.
1st Quarter ...	...	403	13	3.2
2nd Quarter	...	491	18	3.6
3rd Quarter ...	...	1242	32	2.6
4th Quarter ...	...	1273	26	2.0
TOTAL		3409	89	2.6

Total percentage of animals infected shows a decrease of 0.8 per cent from previous year.

CONDITIONS AT SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

During the year the following improvements were carried out.

1. Installation of two extractor ventilating fans. Although this resulted in an improvement in the cooling of beef carcasses the hanging room, which has a floor area of 65 sq. yards, is far too small to allow of sufficient space between sides of beef.

During the peak period of slaughter, 80 to 90 sides of beef are hung in this room, resulting in excessive and dangerous handling prior to loading on to the distributing vehicles.

2. With the replacement of the old corroded cast iron water main and internal servicing with new copper piping, the pressure and volume of water inside the slaughterhouse is now greatly improved.

3. The heavy work of slaughtermen has been eased by the provision of electric hoists and beef saw, but the facilities for the scalding and dressing of pigs are seriously inadequate.

The present scalding arrangements consist of an ordinary household bath, which might be suitable for porker pigs, but not for the large bacon pigs now being received at the slaughterhouse.

SCAVENGING.

The area is adequately served for the collection of household refuse by two Shelvoke and Drewry freighters by direct lal out.

Although such an excellent service is provided, persons still persist in depositing refuse in various places in the district and in many cases causing a nuisance.

The persons who cause this nuisance choose their opportunities and can never be caught in the act.

SCHOOLS.

We are still hopefully awaiting the time when the County Council can carry out their programme of providing schools in the place of the Bedwas Primary Schools.

Much has been done to improve the environment of the children by decorating, etc., but the schools are out of date with modern requirements.

SHOPS ACTS.

Regular inspections of the shops in the area have been carried out during the year and no Formal action has been necessary to remedy any infringement of the Acts.

The year has been a most difficult one with regard to repairs to privately owned properties rented to tenants.

Numbers of these houses are owned by pensioners who have left the district and rely on the rents received to augment their pensions.

The still rising cost of repairs and cost of living makes it very difficult for these people to meet the costs of making a house in all respects in a reasonable state of habitation. Also a great portion of the properties are rapidly deteriorating through neglect of paint to the woodwork.

However, every effort is being made to effect repairs where the health of the tenant is endangered.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. R. SULWAY,
Sanitary Inspector.